the fact that due to open cast mining by the Coal India Limited the environment in Assam, has been polluted to a great extent;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the pollution in these mining areas;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Assam Government to prevent pollution created by the Coal India Limited in Assam; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The issue of environmental degradation caused by opencast mining by the Coal India Ltd. in Assam has been brought to the notice of Central Govt. by various distinguished persons and organisations of Assam.Chief Minister of Assam had also written to the Central Govt. on this issue in August 1988. On the basis of the complaints received, the Ministry of Environment & Forests had constituted an Expert Committee in 1988 to look into the environmental problems arising from the coal mining operations being carried out by Coal India Ltd. Opencast mining has resulted in damage to vegetation, pollution and siltation of water courses and deposition of silt in the flat agriculture lands. On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the Govt. has decided to stop opencast mining in Tikak mine. The mining operations have since been stopped from 5th April 1990. The restoration works which, *inter alia*, include construction of toe-walls, check dams, gully plugging, terracing on the slopes and plantations thereon will continue. The Govt. of Assam had also set up a Technical Committee which had made a number of recommendations for implementation in the opencast sites. The implementation of control measures have also been monitored by the Assam Pollution Control Board.

Use of Official Language in CGHS

1941. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of official language has been given due importance in the CGHS dispensaries/hospitals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide more Roman and Devnagari typewriters in the CGHS headquarters/hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisions of official language Act and rules framed thereunder are given due importance in CGHS dispensary/hospitals for progressive use of Hindi in the Official work.

(c) Action is in progress to supply more Devnagari Typewriters to CGHS Office.

Guidelines to Parents to Prevent Blindness

1942. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Society for Prevention of Blindness, India has issued guidelines to parents to prevent blindness as reported in the Hindu of 12th March, 1990; and

(b) whether Government is likely to make this a part and parcel of text-books for school children and would prepare videos for screening on T.V. etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps to be taken for prevention of